

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied in view of the outstanding Office Action dated September 6, 2005, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until January 6, 2006, and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention defined in claims 1-4 is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art taken alone or in combination with one another. Specifically, claims 1-4 are not rendered obvious by the newly formulated combination of Cochran et al US 6,354,667 ("Cochran") and Connell et al US 4,255,641 ("Connell"), for the following reasons.

Admittedly Cochran shows a weld 42 between rim 20 and wheel disc 30. These structural features are shown in Figures 2 and 2A of Cochran as well as prior art Figure 11. However, it is abundantly clear that Cochran fails to disclose or suggest the serrations at the weld as specifically recited in claim 1.

The secondary Connell citation also fails to suggest the serrations defined in claim 1 and the remaining dependent claims. Instead of serrations Connell discloses a knurled annular contact band 106 on one of two pipe sections 4, 4' abutting in end-to-end relationship with one another. Careful study of Connell clearly shows that the overall disclosure relates to the outside welding of pipelines which is totally

nonanalogous to the vehicle wheel construction of the present invention. Those skilled in the art would not look to pipeline welding when faced with the fabrication of the several parts of a vehicle wheel construction. But even if one gets over that initial hurdle, Connell fails to suggest the serrations at the weld which are at the heart of applicants' invention. These serrations function to provide an improved attachment weld by allowing welding gases to flow and escape evenly, and weld splatter is eliminated or substantially reduced. Lateral runout of weld metal is reduced by the creation of high points at the serrations for leveling during welding. Machining is not necessary either before or after assembly, and wobble is eliminated between the rim and the disc for improved mating of components.

The knurled annular contact band 106 of Connell is quite different and simply provides a roughened contact surface for enhanced securement to the smooth annular contact band 108 of the adjacent pipe section. This expedient is notoriously old in that roughening of contact surfaces prior to securement with any form of adhesive has long been used to create a stronger bond between the surfaces to be joined. The serrations of the present invention are different in cause and effect, and achieve the above noted benefits which are described in detail in the specification at paragraph 17.

With respect to dependent claims 2-4, Shimizu et al US 6,332,653 ("Shimizu") does not address the above described differences of the Cochran and Connell combination. Accordingly, the combination of Cochran/Connell/Shimizu does not suggest the subject matter of claims 2-4.

Moreover, it is only through prohibited hindsight that the Examiner is able to formulate this stated rejection, and even then the serrations of the present invention and

the benefits thereof are totally missing. While there is no suggestion for the combination of Cochran and Connell, even when made, such combination falls far short of suggesting the present invention as specifically defined in claims 1-4.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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